

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
LUFKIN DIVISION

FILED: 11/20/12

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT COURT  
DAVID J. MALAND, CLERK

VS.

CASE NO. 9:12-CR-39

LINCOLN JEROME WATTS

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATION ON GUILTY PLEA  
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

By order of the District Court, this matter is referred to the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge for administration of the guilty plea under Rule 11. Magistrate judges have the statutory authority to conduct a felony guilty plea proceeding as an “additional duty” pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(3). United States v. Bolivar-Munoz, 313 F.3d 253, 255 (5th Cir. 2002).

On November 19, 2012, this case came before the undersigned magistrate judge for entry of a guilty plea by the Defendant, Lincoln Jerome Watts, to Count One (1) of the Indictment. Count One alleges that on or about November 13, 2011, in the Eastern District of Texas, Lincoln Jerome Watts, the Defendant, having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, to wit: aggravated robbery, a felony, in cause number F088361999, in the 145<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, in Nacogdoches County, Texas, did knowingly and unlawfully possess in and affecting commerce a firearm, to wit: a Kel-Tec Model P3AT, .380 caliber, semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number JJE54, all in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2).

The Defendant, Lincoln Jerome Watts, entered a plea of guilty to Count One of the

Indictment into the record at the hearing. After conducting the proceeding in the form and manner prescribed by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, the undersigned finds:

- a. That the Defendant, after consultation with his attorney, has knowingly, freely and voluntarily consented to the administration of the guilty plea in this case by a United States Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Texas, subject to a final approval and imposition of sentence by the District Court.
- b. That the Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that the Defendant is aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea, and that the plea of guilty is made freely, knowingly, and voluntarily. Upon addressing the Defendant personally in open court, the undersigned determined that the Defendant's plea is knowing and voluntary and did not result from force, threats or promises. See FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(b)(2).
- c. That the Defendant's knowing and voluntary plea is supported by an independent factual basis establishing each of the essential elements of the offense and the Defendant realizes that his conduct falls within the definition of the crime charged under Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2).

#### **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

As factual support for the Defendant's guilty plea, the Government presented a factual basis. See Factual Basis and Stipulation. In support, the Government would prove that Lincoln Jerome Watts is the same person charged in the Indictment and that the events described in the Indictment occurred in the Eastern District of Texas and elsewhere. The Government would also have proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, each and every essential element of the offense as alleged in Count One of the Indictment through the testimony of witnesses, including expert witnesses, and admissible exhibits. In support of the Defendant's plea, the undersigned incorporates the proffer of evidence

described in detail in the factual basis and stipulation, and the Defendant's admissions made in open court in response to the undersigned's further inquiry into the factual basis and stipulation.

The Defendant agreed with and stipulated to the evidence presented in the factual basis. Counsel for the Defendant and the Government attested to the Defendant's competency and capability to enter an informed plea of guilty. The Defendant agreed with the evidence presented by the Government and personally testified that he was entering his guilty plea knowingly, freely and voluntarily.

#### **RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION**

**IT IS THEREFORE** the recommendation of the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge that the District Court accept the Guilty Plea of the Defendant, which the undersigned determines to be supported by an independent factual basis establishing each of the essential elements of the offense charged in Count One of the Indictment. Accordingly, it is further recommended that the District Court finally adjudge the Defendant, Lincoln Jerome Watts, guilty of the charged offense under Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2).

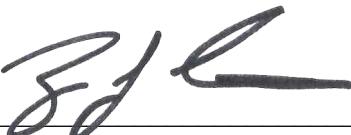
The Defendant is ordered to report to the United States Probation Department for the preparation of a presentence report. The Defendant has the right to allocute before the District Court before imposition of sentence. It is recommended that the Court **ORDER** the Defendant's attorney to read and discuss the presentence report with the Defendant, and to file any objections to the report **BEFORE** the date of the sentencing hearing.

#### **OBJECTIONS**

Objections to this report must be: (1) specific, (2) in writing, and (3) served and filed within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy of this report. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 1(a), 6(b), and 72(b). A party's failure to object bars that party from: (1) entitlement to de

novo review by a district judge of proposed findings and recommendations, see Rodriguez v. Bowen, 857 F.2d 275, 276-77 (5th Cir. 1988), and (2) appellate review, except on grounds of plain error of unobjected-to factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the district court, see Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc). The constitutional safeguards afforded by Congress and the courts require that, when a party takes advantage of his right to object to a magistrate's findings or recommendation, a district judge must exercise its nondelegable authority by considering the actual evidence and not merely by reviewing and blindly adopting the magistrate's report and recommendation. See Hernandez v. Estelle, 711 F.2d 619, 620 (5th Cir. 1983); United States v. Elsoffer, 644 F.2d 357, 359 (5th Cir. 1981) (per curiam).

SIGNED this 20th day of November, 2012.



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Zack Hawthorn  
United States Magistrate Judge